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02/13/2009

Application No. 10/020,861

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the pending claims as indicated and cancel claim 25. A more detailed explanation of the claim amendments is presented in the remarks and a complete listing of the pending claims is presented in the Appendix.

5. (Thrice Amended) A transport unit for wafer-shaped objects, the unit comprising:
a container for holding the objects, the container comprising a plurality of container
walls, the container walls having a plurality of recesses[.]: and

a container door fitted in said container and comprising two door walls spaced apart from
each other and a locking and unlocking arrangement positioned between the two door walls, the
locking and unlocking arrangement comprising a plurality of locking elements movable between
a moved-in end position and a moved-out end position, each of said plurality of locking elements
comprising a projection from a plate with a pair of opposed edges, each of said plurality of
locking elements directed to one of said plurality of recesses in said container walls, whereby in
the moved-out end position the locking elements penetrate into said recesses in the container
walls, the locking and unlocking arrangement further comprising a plurality of parallel couplers
pivotally mounted to one of the door walls and to each of said plate edges such that each of said
plates is parallel to the door walls, whereby the penetration of each of said locking elements into
one of said plurality of recesses is effected along a curved path.

6. (Twice Amended) The transport unit of claim 5 wherein each said locking element is a
component part of one of said plates.

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10. (Thrice Amended) The transport unit of claim 5 further comprising a plurality of connecting rods, wherein each of said plurality of connecting rods has two ends with one end each connecting rod rotatably connecting to one of the plates and the other end of each connecting rod coupled to a disk.

12. (Thrice Amended) A transport unit for wafer-shaped objects, the transport unit comprising a container and a door to close the container, the door comprising a pair of [[.]] spaced apart door walls and a locking and unlocking arrangement positioned between the door walls, the locking and unlocking arrangement comprising:

first and second plates, each of said first and second plates comprising a locking element extending therefrom and first and second opposed edges, each of said locking elements extendable out of the door to engage a recess in the container, at least one of said locking elements extending in a first locking element direction and at least one other of said locking elements extending in a second locking element direction to engage the recesses in the container, the first locking element direction generally opposite to the second locking element direction;

a rotatable disk and a plurality of connecting rods, the rotatable disk in rotatable mechanical communication with each of the locking elements via the connecting rods; and

first and second parallel couplers pivotally attached to first and second edges of each of said plates, each of said couplers having two ends, one end of each of said couplers attached to and rotatable about a first coupler axis at one of the door walls and the other end of each of said couplers attached to and rotatable about a second coupler axis generally parallel to the first coupler axis and proximate one of said locking elements, said first and second couplers attached

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to the first plate axially extending in a first coupler direction and said first and second couplers attached to said second plate axially extending in a second coupler direction different from the first coupler direction such that the locking elements remain generally parallel to said door walls and are displaced outwardly in a curved path.

14. (Twice Amended) The transport unit of claim 13 wherein the connecting rods extend between the disk and the plate.

17. (Twice Amended) The transportable unit of claim 16, wherein each of said couplers is rotatably connected to one of the door walls along a first axis parallel to the door wall and each of said couplers is further rotatably connected at one of the locking elements with a second axis parallel to the first axis, the couplers providing the curved path of the locking element.

18. (Thrice Amended) A container door fitted in a container and having a pair of door walls and a locking and unlocking arrangement disposed between the pair of door walls, the locking and unlocking arrangement comprising a plurality of projections and a disk rotatable by a motor and in mechanical communication with each of said plurality of projections, each of said plurality of projections extending from a plate having opposed edges and held operably parallel to the door walls by a plurality of parallel couplers, each of said plurality of couplers pivotally attached to one of said door walls and further pivotally attached proximate one of said plate opposed edges, the projections each movable in a curved path between a moved-in state and a moved-out state by a cooperation between the disk and couplers, whereby in the moved-out state

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the locking elements penetrate into said recesses in the container walls, wherein the projections remain substantially parallel to said door walls.